

PR00-211 14 September 2000 9.30 hrs

## Unemployment falling more slowly

In the months June to August, the number of registered unemployed people in the Netherlands was 169 thousand. The unemployment rate has fallen by an average two thousand a month in the last six months, a lot more slowly than in 1999 according to new figures from Statistics Netherlands.

## Unemployment two thousand a month down in 2000

In the months June to August, the number of registered unemployed people in the Netherlands was 169 thousand. The influx of schoolleavers onto the labour market usually pushes up unmployment by some ten thousand in this period. After adjustment for this effect the unemployment rate is 13 thousand lower than in the period May to June. As the figures are based on a sample survey, they are subject to a certain margin of error. Therefore the trend in unemployment is best considered in a longer term perspective. Compared with six months previously the figure was 12 thousand lower, which corresponds with a fall of two thousand a month since the beginning of 2000. In 1999 unemployment fell by over five thousand a month, so the rate of decrease seems to have slowed down substantially.

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